Lower Passaic River Study Area

PRP DISCHARGE CASES FOR THE LOWER PASSAIC RIVER STUDY AREA

INVESTIGATION OF THE FOUNDRY STREET COMPLEX PRPS NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

HONIG CHEMICAL AND PROCESSING CORPORATION

PREPARED FOR:
LOWER PASSAIC RIVER STUDY AREA
COOPERATING PARTIES GROUP

SUBMITTED TO:
USEPA REGION II

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Honig Chemical and Processing Corporation

LOWER PASSAIC RIVER STUDY AREA
PRP DATA EXTRACTION FORM

HONIG CHEMICAL & PROCESSING CORPORATION

CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS/CONTACT INFO:

Robert Honig
Honig Chemical & Processing Corporation
414 Wilson Avenue # 2
Newark, NJ 07105
(FUA000001 at Tab 65, FMG000123 at Tab 7)

FACILITY ADDRESS:

Honig Chemical & Processing Corporation
Building # 7
185 Foundry Street
Newark, NJ
(FMG000162 at Tab 7, FMG000172 at Tab 7)

Honig Chemical & Processing Corporation
Building # 13
185 Foundry Street
Newark, NJ
(FMG000162 at Tab 7, FMG000172 at Tab 7)

Honig Chemical & Processing Corporation
Block 5005 – Lot 4
185 Foundry Street
Newark, NJ
(FMG000127 at Tab 7, FMG000162 at Tab 7, FMG000172 at Tab 7)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY (annual revenue, # of employees):

Corporate records for Honig Chemical & Processing Corporation ("Honig") report that the company was incorporated in 1970. The company's President is reported to be one Robert Honig and the Secretary is one Eloise Honig. According to online sources, 100% of the capital stock of the company is reported to be held by the company officers. The Honig operation is reported to presently have a workforce of 32 employees. (D&B) Limited financial information – (dated as of fiscal year ending December 1998) – indicates that the company had sales of $2.2 Million. (FUA000001 at Tab 65, FUA000009 at Tab 65, FMG000152at Tab 7)

DATES OF OPERATION (include info. on predecessors/successors if known):

The exact tenure of Honig Chemical at the Foundry Street Complex is not presently known. According to information reported by NJDEP, Honig is believed to have operated in Building # 13 at the Foundry Street Complex operations as of, or prior to, 1962 when that building was destroyed in an explosion. It is also reported that Honig operated in Building # 7 at the Foundry Street Complex from 1970 to 1975. The company presently operates on Wilson Avenue in Newark, though it is not known when Honig moved from Foundry Street to its present Wilson Avenue location. (FMG000162 at Tab 7, FMG000172 at Tab 7)

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY OPERATIONS (list CERCLA hazardous substances used, manufactured or present):

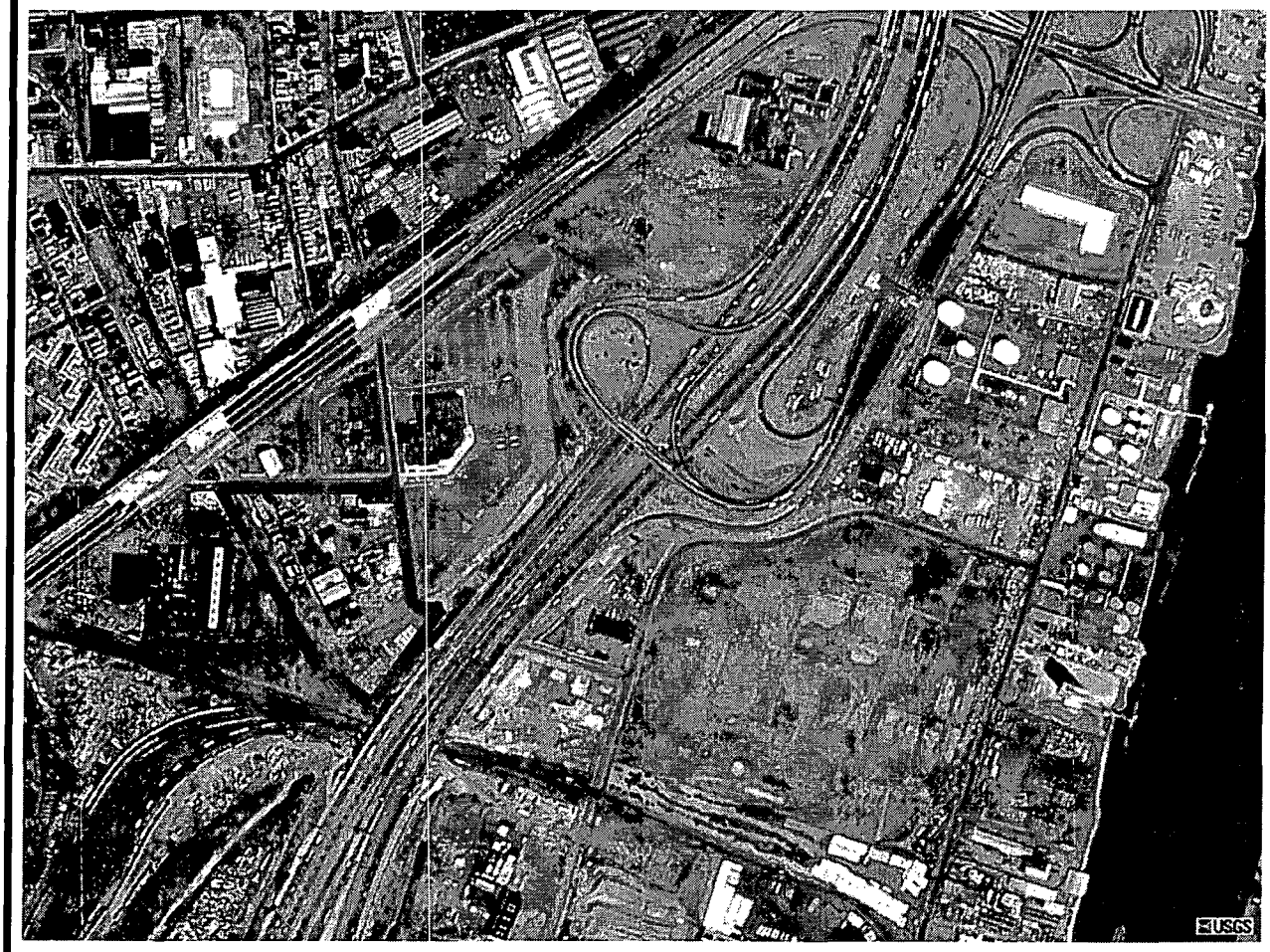
The Foundry Street Complex ("Site") is bordered to its north by Roanoke Avenue and to its northeast and east by Foundry Street and Allegheny Avenue. The complex is bordered to its west and southwest by various railroad rights-of-way. The New Jersey Turnpike is located to the south of the complex. The Foundry Street Complex consists of approximately 6 different City of Newark tax parcels, including the following:

- Block 5005 – Lot 4
- Block 5005 – Lot 5
- Block 5005 – Lot 6
- Block 5005 – Lot 10
- Block 5005 – Lot 21
- Block 5005 – Lot 22

(FMG000117 at Tab 7, FMG000174 at Tab 7)

Honig is known to have leased space and operated in Building # 13 in approximately 1962, and in Building # 7 from 1970 to 1975; both located on Block 5005 – Lot 4 at the Site. (FMG000127, FMG000162 at Tab 7, FMG000172 at Tab 7)

The following annotated aerial photograph identifies the approximate location of the Foundry Street Complex Site:



FOUNDRY STREET COMPLEX SITE

Aerial photograph dated March 29, 1995.
All annotated site outlines and locations are approximations.
Source: USGS / Terraserver-USA.com

According to an April 1991 NJDEP investigation report of the Foundry Street Complex, Honig is reported to have had former manufacturing operations at the Foundry Street Complex which centered on the production of organic chemicals. (FMG0000162 at Tab 7)

According to NJDEP as of 1991, raw materials reported used by Honig in its operations were known to include the following:

- Arsenic trioxide
- Barium nitrate
- Benzene
- Chloroform
- Dichloromethane
- Lead Nitrate
- Mercury acetate
- Mercury chloride
- Mercury metal
- Petroleum spirits
- Pyridine
- Silver nitrate
- Toluene

(FMG000162 at Tab 7)

Sampling of sediment, soil and surface water at the entire Foundry Street Complex was conducted by NJDEP in October 1988, including at Block 5005 - Lot 4, the location of the former Honig operations at the Site. The 1988 sampling activities have served to document the presence of certain contaminants in Site media – (Site soils, sediment, surface water and groundwater) – which are documented to be associated with the Honig operations at the Site. According to a discussion of the 1988 Site sampling by NJDEP, the following contaminants were identified in a soil sample from the west side of Building # 15 at the Site, where Building # 15 was once connected to Building # 13:.

- Arsenic
- Barium
- Lead
- Mercury
- Silver

(FMG000162 at Tab 7)

It was documented during the 1988 sampling, specifically by a sediment sample taken from a drain located between Buildings # 1 and # 5 that high concentrations of the following substances associated with the Honig operations were found in the facility storm drains:

- Acetone
- Barium
- Benzene
- Chloroform
- Pyrene
- Toluene

(FMG000162 at Tab 7)

PERMITS (provide dates):

NPDES:

Information is not available at this time.

POTW (pretreatment):

Information is not available at this time.

NEXUS TO LOWER PASSAIC RIVER STUDY AREA (describe in detail; cite to supporting documentation; date or time period of disposal; list CERCLA hazardous substances; and volume, if known):

Direct (e.g. pipe, outfall, spill):

See discussion below concerning discharges from the Foundry Street Complex to the Roanoke Avenue combined sewer system; as well as the dry- and wet-weather bypassing of wastewater from the Roanoke Avenue CSO and the ultimate discharge of same to the Passaic River.

Sanitary Sewer (provide name and location of CSO; details regarding CSO overflows and dates):

Information obtained to date indicates that the Roanoke Avenue combined sewer system and outfall to the Passaic River was documented by PVSC to have been inoperative from 1971 through late 1979. While not conclusive, PVSC records indicate that discharges from the Roanoke Avenue CSO to the Passaic River are known to have occurred in the late-1940s/early-1950s time period. As noted in the evidence obtained to date, discharges of hazardous substances into the sewer system of the Foundry Street Complex would have ultimately discharged directly to the Passaic River via the Roanoke Avenue CSO during periods when it was known to be in a chronic malfunctioning condition. (FMG000189 at Tab 9, FMG000218 at Tab 12, FMG000232 at Tab 13, FMG000245 at Tab 14, FMG000256 at Tab 15, FMG000275 at Tab 16, FMG000292 at Tab 17, FMG000302 at Tab 18, FMG000317 at Tab 19, FMG000325 at Tab 20, FMG000334 at Tab 21)

Information obtained to date indicates that wastewater discharged from the Foundry Street Complex Site is carried via combined sewers, which ultimately discharge to the Passaic River. Information on the area sewer lines can be found in a report prepared by Purcell Associates ("Purcell") on behalf of the City of Newark, entitled Pollution Abatement Plan, Newark, New Jersey, ("1975 Purcell Abatement Plan"), dated 1975. It is noted in the 1975 Purcell Abatement Plant that a 30-inch sewer is routed from west-to-east along Roanoke Avenue and the northern border of the Site. After the intersection of Roanoke Avenue and Foundry Street, at the northeast corner of the Site, this sewer line increases in size to 48 inches in diameter. The sewer line continues to travel from west-to-east, increasing to 54 inches, before it is shown as ultimately discharging to the Passaic River via a 60-inch diameter outfall. (FMG000049 at Tab 2)

During a November 1990 site inspection at the Foundry Street Complex by NJDEP, it was observed that a series of strip drains were located throughout the Site. A strip drain was reportedly routed along the eastern side of Building # 7. This same strip drain is shown to also be located along the eastern side of Building # 15. As noted above, Building # 13, a former Honig operating location, was previously connected to Building # 15. The strip drain is shown as being routed through the Foundry Street Complex and towards Roanoke Avenue to the north of the Site. (FMG000115 at Tab 6)

PVSC reported that, as of February 6, 1970, a Judgment was entered in a Superior Court of New Jersey litigation action brought by PVSC against the City of Newark for pollution emanating into the Passaic River from certain Newark-owned sewers. Reportedly, Newark was ordered to abate and remove all pollution from certain sewers discharging to the river. As of August 1971, PVSC advised Newark of the continuing pollution emanating from these sewers, noting that "... *it was the Commissioner' opinion that a considerable portion of the pollution in the lower Passaic River can be attributed to the discharges from these Newark Storm Sewers.*" (FMG000219 at Tab 12)

Newark's efforts to abate pollution from the target sewers included, but were not limited to, work performed in November and December of 1971 to clean the Roanoke Avenue sewer line. In December 1971, an explosion occurred in the Roanoke sewer during preparations for a "TV inspection" of the sewer line. That work re-commenced in January 1972. (FMG000228-229 at Tab 12)

In a Supplemental Relief Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey that was brought and heard in February 1972, by PVSC against Newark, the Court ordered Newark to terminate all illegal connections and to halt all pollution by September 1973. At that time in February 1972, Newark proceeded with efforts to inspect, seal and/or repair certain target sewers. (FMG000220-221 at Tab 12)

Between June and August of 1972, reports were issued by Newark calling for the re-laying of approximately 1,200 feet of the Roanoke Avenue sewer line from Doremus Avenue (near the Passaic River) and west to Avenue P (near Foundry Street). (FMG000228-229 at Tab 12)

As of February 1974, Newark requested help from PVSC to address the halting of pollution from the Newark sewers. By 1975, Newark advised that certain work efforts to abate the sewer pollution had to be "put off" due to limited funds. (FMG000220-221 at Tab 12)

Of note, as of January 1975, the City of Newark was reported by PVSC to have received a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") Permit from USEPA for certain outfalls to the Passaic River, including the "Roanoke Avenue storm sewer." The terms of Newark's January 1975 NPDES permit were reported by PVSC to include, but not be limited to: (1) a wet weather study and implementation of an approvable monitoring program; (2) an

abatement study of certain overflows; and (3) an engineering report and schedule for the elimination of all discharges by Newark of untreated wastewater. (FMG000222 at Tab 12)

Subsequent to the issuance of the above 1972 reports that called for the re-laying of the sewer line, PVSC stated that no further abatement efforts centered on the Roanoke Avenue sewer, from 1972 through and including in 1976. (FMG000228-229 at Tab 12)

In September 1978, and subsequently revised in January 1979, Clinton Bogert Associates ("Clinton Bogert"), on behalf of the City of Newark, issued its study of sources of pollution discharging to the Passaic River from certain storm sewer and combined sewer outfalls ("CSO"s) in Newark. The Clinton Bogert report is entitled City of Newark, New Jersey, Feasibility Study, Pollution Abatement Program ("1979 FS/Pollution Abatement Report"), and included an investigation of the Roanoke Avenue combined sewer system and CSO. (FMG000001-FMG000003 at Tab 1)

In the 1979 FS/Pollution Abatement Report, it was noted that "polluted liquid wastes are being discharged into the lower Passaic River from four sewers owned by the City of Newark. These wastes include continuous discharges from the wet weather outfall of the Roanoke Avenue combined sewer..." The report went on to state that "a non-functioning regulator causes the dry weather discharge at Roanoke Avenue." (FMG000007 at Tab 1)

It was noted in the 1979 FS/Pollution Abatement Report that, due to construction of the New Jersey Turnpike, a combined sewer regulator mechanism, the Avenue P regulator, was constructed on the Roanoke Avenue combined sewer in 1951. The Avenue P regulator was located closer to the intersection of Avenue P and Roanoke Avenue, at a distance of approximately 1425 feet west of the intersection of Roanoke Avenue and Doremus Avenue. (FMG000010 at Tab 1, FMG000013 at Tab 1)

Reportedly, a former regulator mechanism, the old Roanoke Avenue regulator was located to the east of the Avenue P regulator, near the intersection of Roanoke Avenue and Doremus Avenue. With construction of the Avenue P regulator in 1951, the old Roanoke Avenue regulator was "sealed off and abandoned" at that time. (FMG000010 at Tab 1, FMG000013 at Tab 1)

The Avenue P regulator was designed to divert all dry weather flow into a then-new 24-inch sanitary sewer. It was reported by Clinton Bogert that the new 24-inch sewer was routed from the Avenue P regulator, ran west-to-east and parallel to the older Roanoke Avenue combined sewer, and was ultimately connected to an 18-inch interceptor sewer located at Doremus Avenue. (FMG000010 at Tab 1)

An 18-inch sanitary sewer in the northern section of Doremus Avenue was reportedly connected to the then-new 24-inch sanitary sewer coming from Roanoke Avenue. This 18-inch

Doremus Avenue sanitary sewer was reported to then pass under the former 54-inch Roanoke Avenue sewer, thereby bypassing the former Roanoke regulator mechanism. (FMG000010 at Tab 1)

Sewage in the Doremus Avenue "interceptor" sewer is reported to then flow to a Wilson Avenue interceptor sewer into a PVSC interceptor sewer that flows directly to the PVSC wastewater treatment plant. With construction of the Avenue P regulator and the new 24-inch sanitary sewer in 1951, the former 54-inch Roanoke Avenue combined sewer located "downstream" of the Avenue P regulator was converted into a wet weather outfall to the Passaic River. (FMG000010 at Tab 1) The former 54-inch Roanoke Avenue combined combined/wet weather sewer ultimately discharges via a 60-inch outfall to the Passaic River. (FMG000031 at Tab 1)

Of significance, Clinton Bogert went on to state in its 1979 FS/Pollution Abatement Report that:

> *"The Avenue "P" regulator is not functioning. Over two feet of dry, granular sediment blocks the regulator gate chamber and prevents flow between the diversion chamber and the Roanoke Avenue dry weather sewer. As a result, all flow in the Roanoke Avenue combined sewer enters the Passaic River through the Roanoke Avenue outfall."*

(FMG000011 at Tab 1)

Clinton Bogert went on to note in its 1979 FS/Pollution Abatement Report that:

> *The regulator mechanism is corroded and not functional. A wooden weir, provided in the diversion chamber, is intact. This weir does not cause the upstream pipe to surcharge above the crown in dry weather. It does reduce upstream flow velocity and causes sedimentation. About 0.5 feet of primarily granular sediment was found in the combined sewer above the regulator. This material accumulates in dry weather and the lighter fractions, probably including most organic pollutants, may be flushed toward the Passaic River during relatively small rainfall events.*

(FMG000011 at Tab 1)

PVSC weekly inspection reports from 1978 and 1979 document that the Roanoke Avenue CSO line continued to bypass and discharge to the Passaic River. Relative to tenants at the Foundry Street Site, specifically Sun Chemical and Arkansas Chemical, PVSC reported on October 27, 1978, that "*City of Newark diversion chamber malfunctioning allowing polluting materials to enter storm drain thence Passaic River.*" PVSC reported on November 30, 1978, that "*city in conjunction with PVSC Industrial Dept. making investigations of chemical plants in Foundry St. area, in effort to determine the source of pollution to storm sewer*" and again on December 11, 1978, that "*Chamber which is malfunctioning at Roanoke Ave. still not repaired*".

In discussing pollution emanating from several City of Newark storm and CSO sewers, PVSC reported on March 2, 1979, that "*No new efforts made to abate these long standing pollution violations – No action taken to repair malfunctioning chamber at Roanoke Ave.*" Relative to these same storm and CSO sewers, including the Roanoke sewer line, PVSC reported on July 16, 1979, that "*Special – nothing being done at this time to abate these pollutions,*" on October 19th that "*Samples taken continue to show signs of pollution*" and repeatedly on both November 30th and December 14, 1979, that "*Samples taken found to be polluting.*" As of December 28, 1979, PVSC reported "*Pollution still continues at these areas – nothing being done by city to abate problem.*" (FMG000218 at Tab 12, FMG000232 at Tab 13, FMG000245 at Tab 14, FMG000256 at Tab 15, FMG000275 at Tab 16, FMG000292 at Tab 17, FMG000302 at Tab 18, FMG000317 at Tab 19, FMG000325 at Tab 20, FMG000334 at Tab 21)

It was documented during the 1988 sampling, specifically by a sediment sample taken from a drain located between Buildings # 1 and # 5 that high concentrations of the following substances associated with the Honig operations were found in the facility storm drains.

- Acetone
- Barium
- Benzene
- Chloroform
- Pyrene
- Toluene

(FMG000162 at Tab 7)

Historical core samples taken of sediments in the Passaic River located in the vicinity of the Roanoke Avenue CSO have served to identify contaminants in those sediments that match raw, process and/or waste materials known to be associated with the Honig Chemical operations. Contaminants that were identified in sampling of site soils, groundwater and sediments at the Honig Chemical facility were also identified in Passaic River sediments sampled in the vicinity of the Roanoke Avenue outfall, including but not limited to the following:

- Acetone
- Arsenic
- Barium
- Benzene
- Lead
- Mercury
- Pyrene
- Silver
- Toluene

Storm Sewer (provide name and location of CSO; details regarding CSO overflows and dates):

See above discussion concerning the combined sewer system in the area of the Foundry Street Complex, which is known to ultimately discharge to the Passaic River. As discussed above, a system of strip drains within the Site are known to be tied into this combined sewer system, allowing storm water and/or surface run-off to serve to transport contaminants to the drains and ultimately to the Passaic River.

Runoff:

See above discussion concerning the combined sewer system in the area of the Foundry Street Complex, which is known to ultimately discharge to the Passaic River. As discussed above, a system of strip drains within the Site are known to be tied into this combined sewer system, allowing storm water and/or surface run-off to serve to transport contaminants to the drains and ultimately to the Passaic River.

As discussed above, historical core samples taken of sediments in the Passaic River located in the vicinity of the Roanoke Avenue CSO have served to identify contaminants in those sediments that match raw, process and waste materials known to be associated with the Honig operations.

Groundwater:

Information is not available at this time.

POTENTIAL NEXUS TO LOWER PASSAIC RIVER STUDY AREA (describe in detail; cite to supporting documentation; list CERCLA hazardous substances; and volume, if known):

Direct (e.g. pipe, outfall, spill):

Information is not available at this time.

Sanitary Sewer (provide name and location of CSO; details regarding CSO overflows and dates):

See above information on documented discharges to facility storm sewer/strip drains, and the routing of same to combined sewers known to have outfalls to the Passaic River.

Storm Sewer (provide name and location of CSO; details regarding CSO overflows and dates):

See above information on documented discharges to facility storm sewer/strip drains, and the routing of same to combined sewers known to have outfalls to the Passaic River.

Runoff:

Information is not available at this time.

Groundwater:

Information is not available at this time.